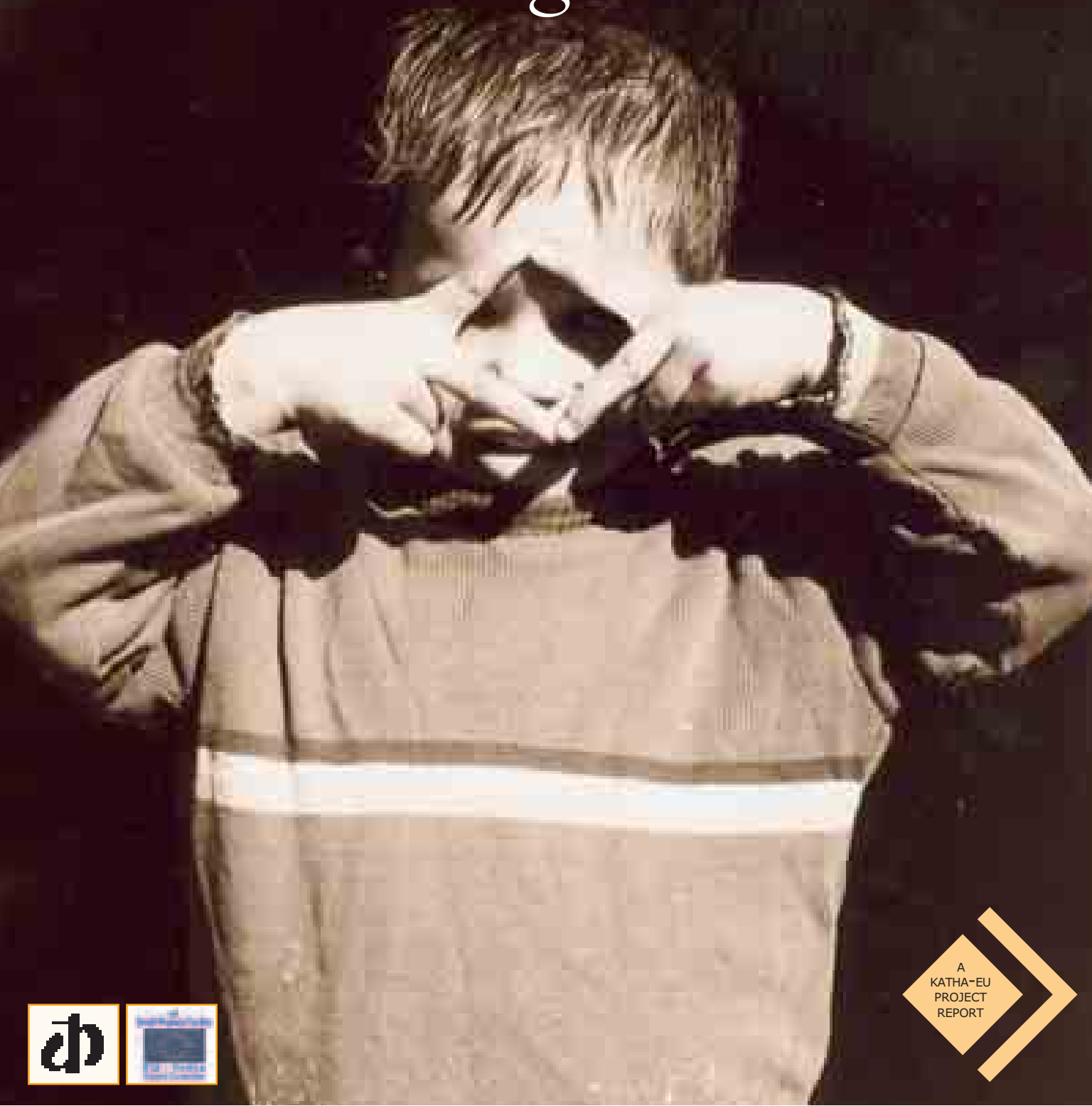


uncommon
solutions
for a common good



A
KATHA-EU
PROJECT
REPORT

WE ALL DREAM OF A BETTER LIFE,

no matter what country we live in, what language we speak, what colour our skin. Empowering individuals to better their lives and believe in change was the challenge we faced with our large family of 150,000 people.

SLUMS ARE LIFE IMPRISONMENTS.

The Katha-EU project gave our community the opportunity to forge their way out of impossible poverty, learn how to re-engineer their lives, and make economic resurgence a reality.

UNCOMMON SOLUTIONS come when people dare. Katha students, their families and their communities dared to ask the difficult questions. And find their own solutions. They showed courage, grit, creativity and cooperation as they pursued a common good in positive, innovative ways.

THIS IS THEIR STORY.

Geeta Dharmarajan, Founder & Executive Director, Katha

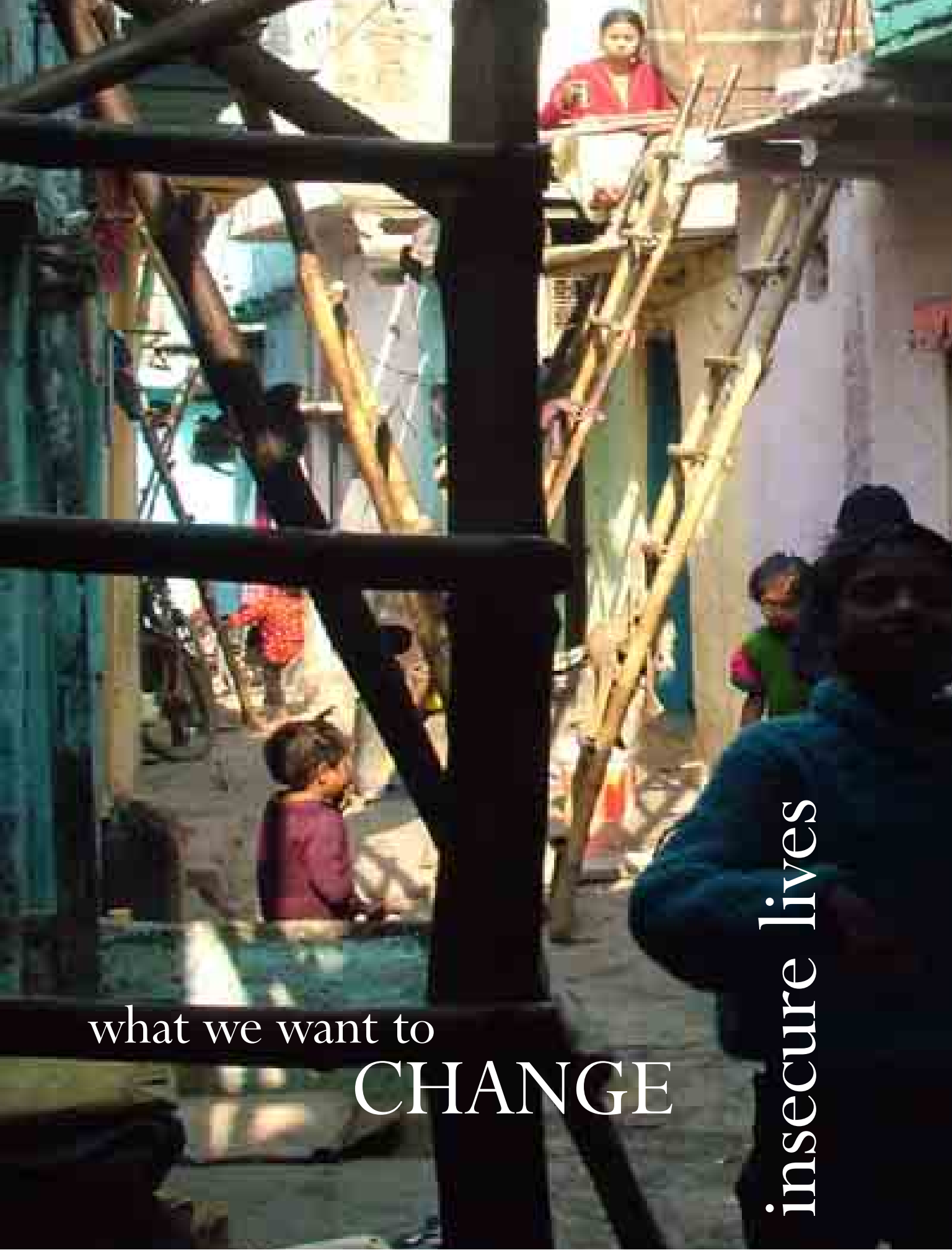
welcome to our world!



A report on work done, July 2005-Dec 2006, presented to the EU by the students of Katha – the inheritors of the slum clusters under study.

we the
students
families
teachers
activists
of katha
pledge that no child
who has been in
katha will ever live in
poverty again

katha challenge 2010
taken in 2000



what we want to

CHANGE

insecure lives

working
children



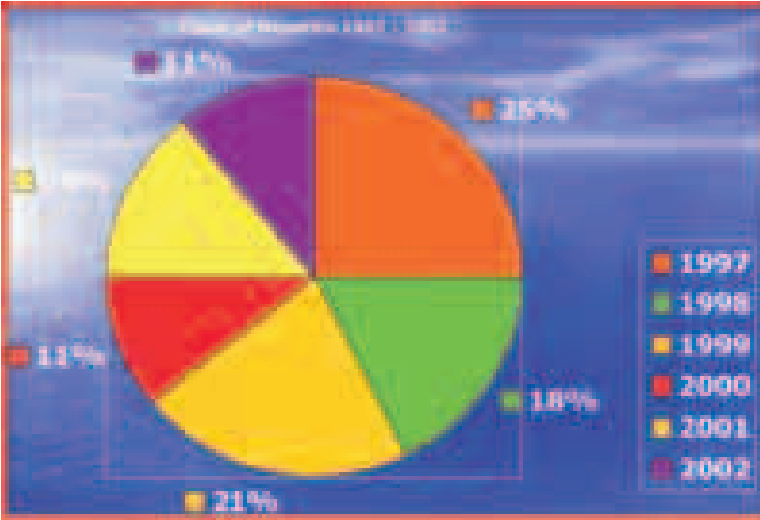


**1,50,000 PEOPLE LIVING
ON THE EDGE OF POVERTY
WITH LITTLE**

- security of life
- basic amenities
- health care
- growth opportunities
- space to live



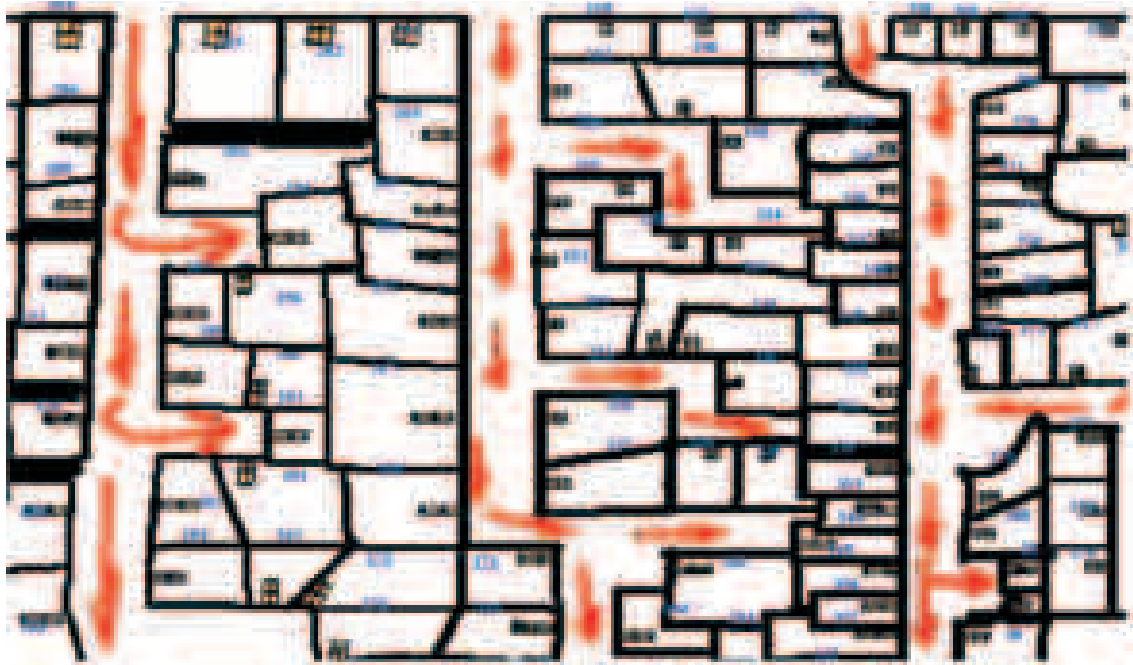
**cramped
settlements**



lack of basic amenities

safe drinking water . sanitation . health . housing . education . economic empowerment

Map of Govindpuri settlement made by students of the Bhumiheen camp



**Lack of basic amenities:
water, sanitation, electricity**

Lack of basic healthcare

**Cramped living spaces: 600
families to a hectare of land**

Poorly ventilated houses

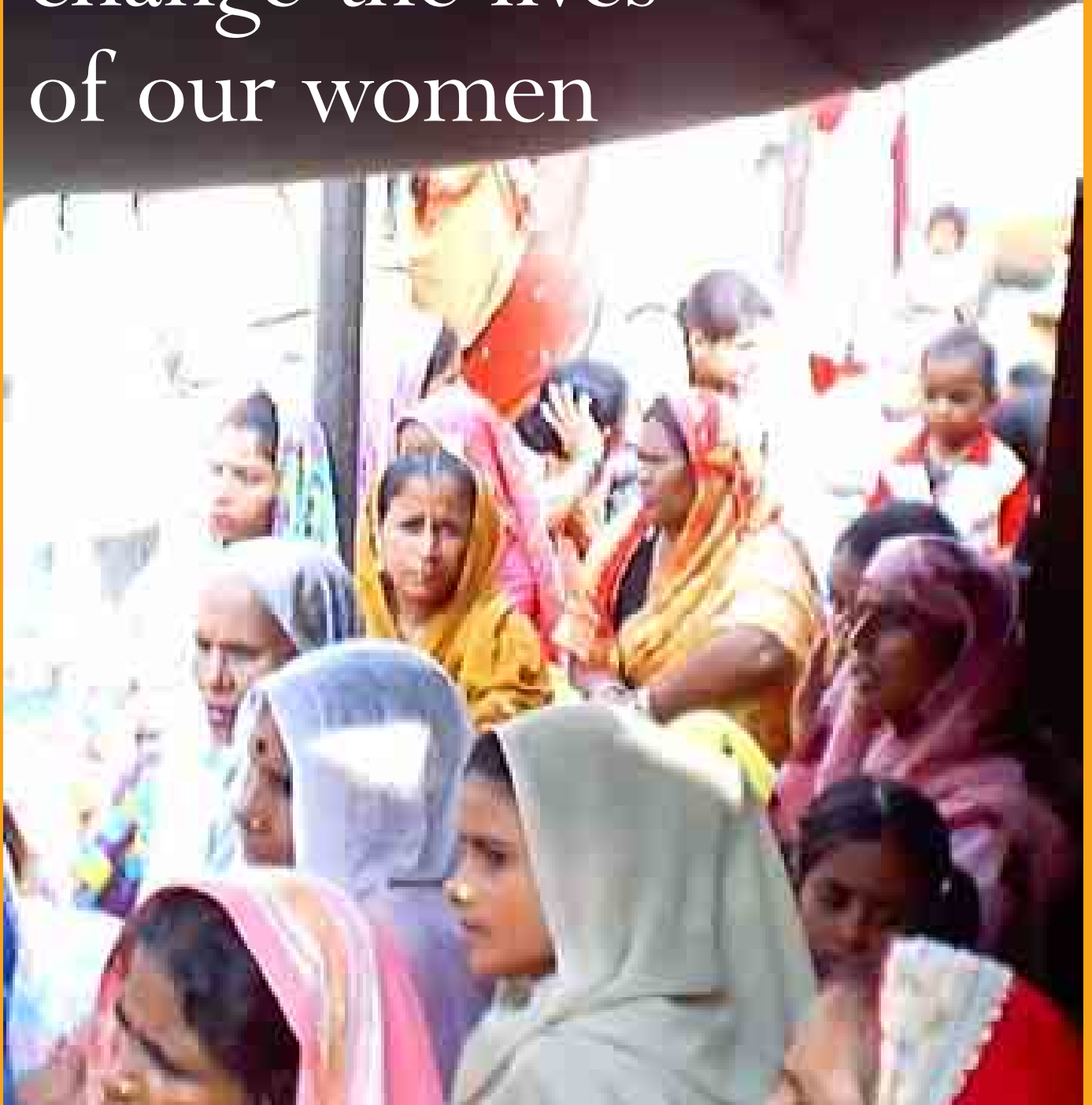
Nonexistent urban planning

Filthy living conditions

Nonexistent garbage disposal

We wanted change!

and we wanted to
change the lives
of our women



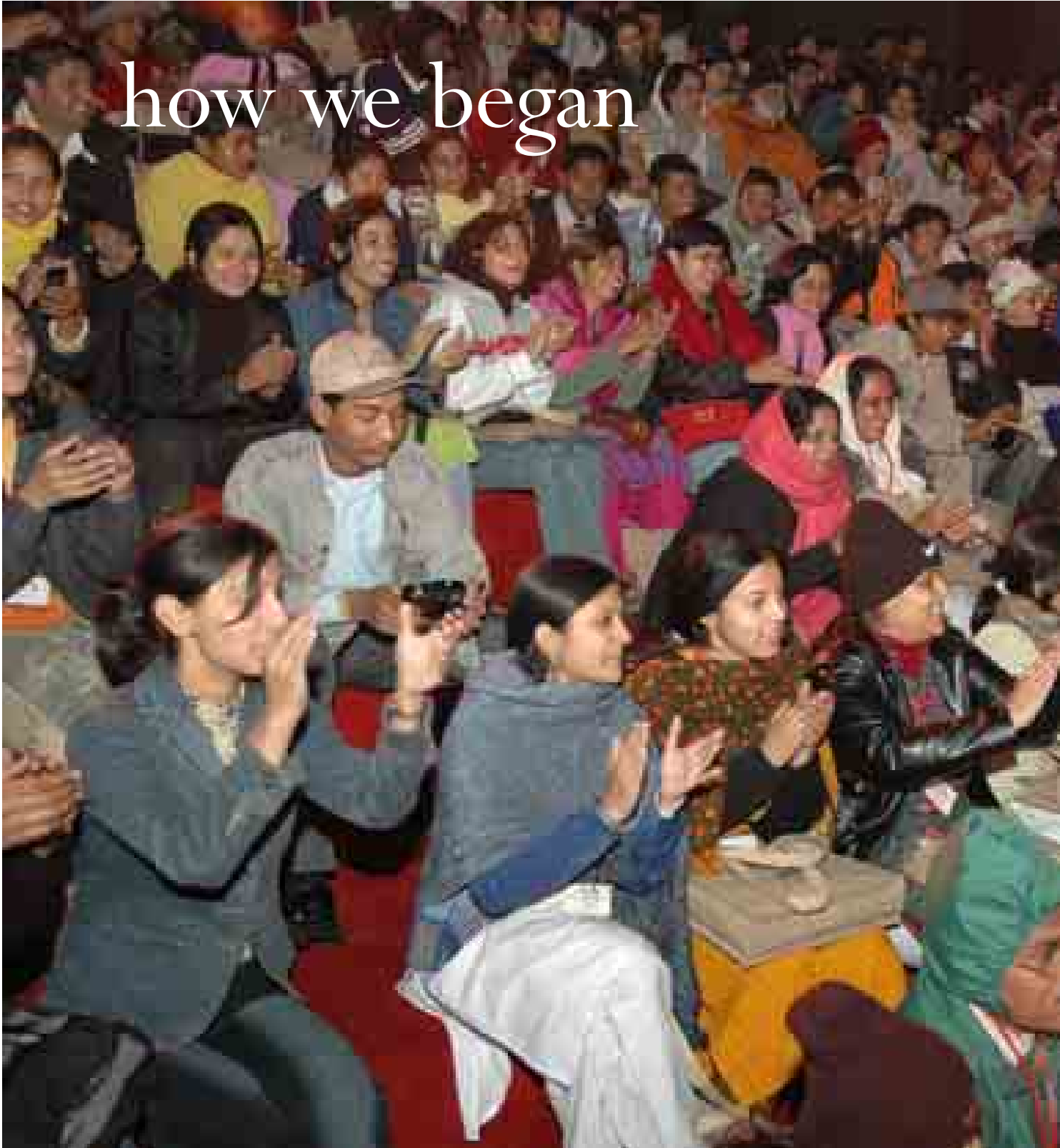


Through July 2005 to December 2006, our classroom learning took us on many fascinating journeys. We learnt about the diversity of urban living, town planning, the architectural and cultural uniqueness of 8 North Indian cities down the ages, and the aspirations and dreams that big cities inspire.

And we conducted 13 surveys ranging from the *Child and the City* – where we interviewed as many as 2,500 children from across socioeconomic strata in Delhi – to surveys on entrepreneurship, health, urban transport and incomes. These surveys also took into consideration factors like gender disparity. We gained much from individual, team and teacher-led learning. We also had lots of fun.

In December, we held three consultations with our community elders – local shopkeepers, members of our mothers’ association and self-help groups – on issues of economic resurgence, basic amenities, loans and financial matters. The resulting intergenerational brainstorming gave birth to much energy and many ideas, which we will use to solve existing problems and launch new school projects in the next year.

how we began





Writing the city. Transforming the city.

Seminars across 110 colleges and universities were organized. Students were asked to share and discuss their experiences of their city.

From these, 300 students and 50 academics were invited to participate in the deliberations held at Delhi. We had 6,000 participants in the **CITY STORIES UTSAV**. An open forum for dialogue, it created space for the profit-for-all arena of ideas.

With help of the EU Small Facilities Programme, Katha began with three ways of understanding and addressing the ground realities and garnering support:

- We invited international cooperation through the **City Stories Utsav** and conference that brought together civil society and activists from India and 22 other countries of Asia and Europe.
- We researched and compared best practices in different cities around the world.
- We made an in-depth socioeconomic study of Delhi and our own slum cluster at Govindpuri.



*Ma Yuan, China, writer,
representing civil society*



*Mona Baker, UK,
scholar and academic*



*Jabbar Husain, France,
immigrant to Europe from Iran*



*Kishwar Naheed, Pakistan, activist, writer
and community leader*



*Hassan Daoud, Iraqi immigrant to Europe, (left);
Tenzin Tsundue, Tibetan activist and poet*

Our European experts:

Charles Landry, city activist, urban scholar and founder of Comedia, UK. Joop de Wit, urban scholar and critic, professor at the ISS, The Netherlands



*Geeta Chandran,
India, dancer and
cultural activist*

guest
speakers at
the katha
city stories
utsav

how we ushered in global

civil society

They came from 22 countries across Europe and Asia to help Katha's communities find answers to how to transshape their city, taking the best practices from the world over. For planning and development aimed at bettering lives, empowering the underprivileged towards a radical socioeconomic resurgence.

They were academics and scholars, high school students and college students, activists and community leaders, financial institutions and corporate representatives who all came together to exchange experiences, share and compare best practice initiatives in each other's countries and cities.

Community activists from India, Asia, Europe helped us zero down on best practices. Local academics and staff helped take this to the ground. We decided to focus on Amsterdam and Bruges, and we presented a detailed report at the meetings held with our communities at the end of the project, to see what practices were being followed in these cities that could benefit our own people.

We looked at Asia, in particular. And at India herself and her many vibrant voluntary organizations, to see what we could learn and what positive change we could initiate in our community.



(Clockwise)
Our women
Delhi's Chief
Minister Shiela
Dikshit
Our students



THE KATHA CITY STORIES UTSAV

Academic Conference: Special sessions addressed how to integrate communities into the curriculum.

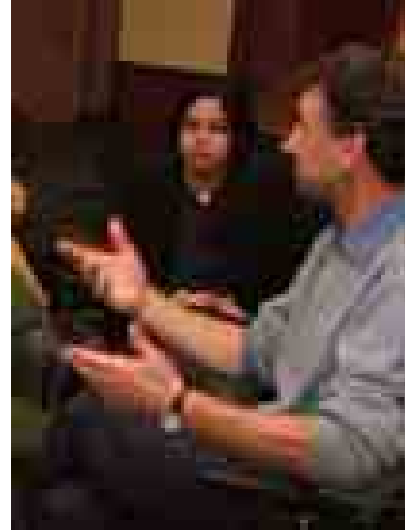
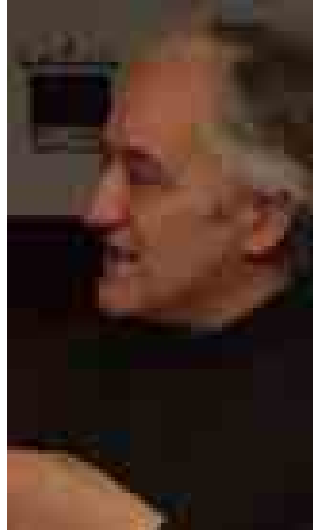
The **National Schoolteachers' Conference** discussed how to involve schools in poverty alleviating issues.

Social activists from across India and Europe, Asia came together to brainstorm.

Elected representatives, from the Delhi Chief Minister to Government of India ministers, heard the issues addressed.

Writers from Europe and Asia, academics and activists from Delhi representing **civil society** took part.





*Three social activists, active participants in the discussions on transforming the city: **Jaya Arunachalam, Chennai. Charles Landry, London. Joop de Wit, Amsterdam.***



Academic conference: 'Colleges, Communities and the Curriculum' – a breakout session

Participants at the National Teachers' Conference listen to sessions on 'Curriculums and the Communities We Are Situated In'





contest

community activism

actnow . Katha, the European Union & IHC invite you to tell us the story of your organisation & your best practices ... **Make your presence felt!**

what is it? A search for best practices, specially for voluntary nonprofits, in Ahmedabad . Bangalore . Chennai . Delhi . Hyderabad . Kolkata . Mumbai

what should you do? Tell us about the community you work with and how you have helped them attain a better quality of life . The more uncommon your solutions, the better!

what can you tell us? Just about anything to do with sustainable development of the slum cluster you work in . Education . Health . Poverty alleviation . Economic resurgence . Better livelihoods for women and men . Better housing and basic amenities

deadline . 15 November 2005

prices . 1 lakh to be won!

certificates . for all participants



www.actnowcontest.org
 022 25514200 / 022 25514111


 sponsored by the European Union's Small Grants Funding Programme & Katha Social Centre

uncommon solutions for a common good

how we taught ourselves from

best practices

Katha wanted the social innovators, the inspired activists who had brought vital change to their communities. So began a countrywide search across 7 metros – Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Kolkata. We asked them to share their stories with us, illustrate how they had put their communities on the path to self-empowerment, socioeconomic resurgence and revitalization. The results were amazing. Sarista Foundation, Mumbai; Datamation Foundation, Charitable Trust; Hope Project Charitable Trust; Adi Gram Samiti; Children’s Toy Foundation; Tarun Chhabra; Assam Autism Foundation; Chetna and Rastriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi were the laureates invited to Delhi to participate in the deliberations and open-space dialogues. To share, learn, lead and teach by example.

Our national and international guides and mentors:

ISS, The Hague: An international graduate school of policy-oriented critical social science, bringing together students and faculty from the global South and North

Comedia, UK: Founded by Charles Landry in 1978, it has provided advice on countless projects in more than 20 countries

SPARC-Mumbai: An NGO that has forged a three-way alliance with the National Slum Dwellers’ Federation (NSDF) and Mahila Milan (MM), a federation of women’s collectives

National Slum Dwellers’ Federation, Mumbai: Headed by Jockin Arputham, winner of the 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Award, this is one of the world’s largest urban poor organizations and social movements

Exnora, Chennai: An international voluntary organization that has brought clean streets to Chennai

Working Women’s Forum, Chennai: Founded by Jaya Arunachalam in 1978, it helps develop the human resource potential of poor women workers

SEWA, Ahmedabad: An organization of self-employed women workers that targets total employment and self-reliance for women



URBAN DESIGN

designnow . Katha and the European Union invite you to showcase your creativity for a common good

what is it? A contest for students of design, planning and architecture

what we believe . That almost all great cities have grappled with the challenge of migrants: people the city needs but doesn't know how to provide for, in terms of basic amenities. So come ... try your hand at designing alternative spaces - and win yourself GREAT PRIZES!

what should you do? Look around you . At your city . And design alternative spaces for the urban poor . The more livable the better . The more creative the better!

what can you design? Just about anything to do with a slum cluster in your city . A realistic town plan that provides better basic amenities . A livable interior design for a dwelling . A school for children within the cluster

deadline . 15 November 2005

prizes . 1 lakh to be won!

certificates . for all participants

Katha (a3) 26524350 (fax) 26524511 | www.katha.org



best.practices@katha.org
(011) 2652-4350 / 2652-4511

www.katha.org

Part-funded by the European Union's Small Projects Facility Programme & India Habitat Centre

We were looking for innovative and dynamic best practices in urban design from students and young practitioners. So we ran a contest for nonprofits which have not been in the media eye, and found some excellent examples of what we could do.

The national contest for college students was held at India Habitat Centre with an aim to make a viable, sustainable plan for urban poor communities and also for improving living spaces in slum clusters. It attracted many entries from colleges of architecture across the country. Of these, 12 designs were selected for the contest by the eminent panel of Professor Joglekar and S K Das. The participants came from prestigious Indian institutes: Jamia Millia Islamia University, Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Apeejay Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and Planning, Rizvi College of Architecture, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad, Sir J J College of Architecture.

The award was won by **Vikas Chandra** and **Akbar Nazim** of **CEPT, Ahmedabad**. What the judges said: The design addressed multiple concerns of the community as a whole and suggested a logical and creative response, using appropriate technologies, to issues of heritage and cultural continuity.

The second prize was shared by **Ansari Eram** and **Jha Pallavi Prakash** of **College of Architecture, Mumbai**. And **Mitu Mathur** and **Pavni Sahni** from **Sushant School of Arts & Architecture, Gurgaon**. What the judges said: The design goes into detailed sociological and economic analysis of communities evidencing a high level of awareness and empowerment of people. It is conscious of policy framework and financial opportunities of transformation.

This was a great inspiration and a tremendous learning experience for us students at Katha.



Our
strengths

the
18

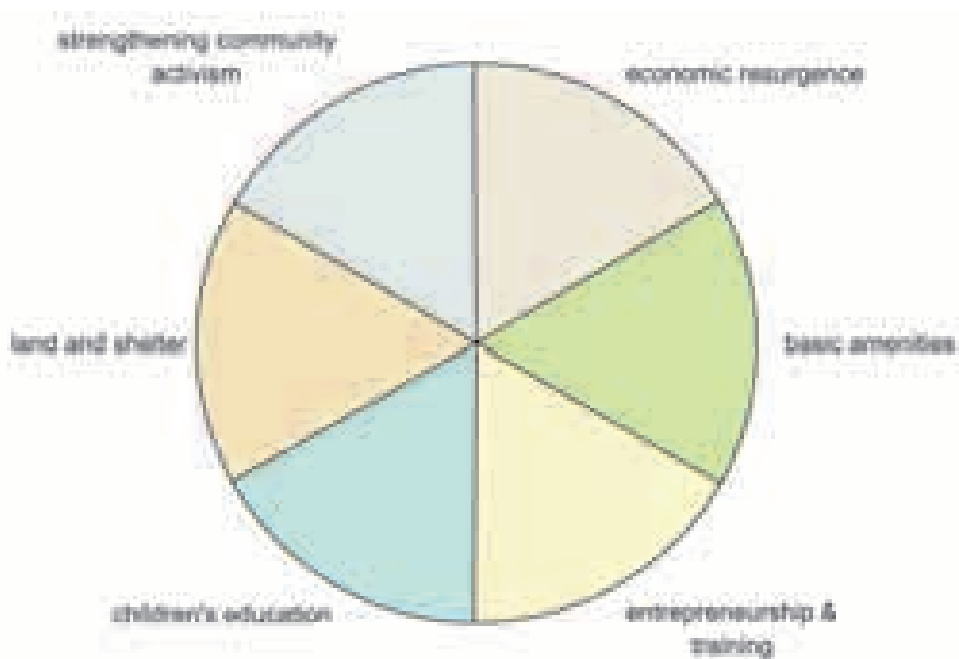
creative months

july 05 - dec 06

our teachers
our activists
our curriculum
for life
our vidduniya
our story pedagogy
our community
our mothers
our fathers
our grandparents
our dogs, cats, birds
and ...

we

the students
of katha ☺



how we created

an urban model

We created an urban model of growth and sustainable living that addressed the needs of the poor with the students, the women and men of our communities, and urban experts. There were six areas we looked at (see opposite page). And from these came the work on the ground.





how we plotted and planned a

strategy for all

People say that the unorganized sector has played a crucial role in fostering economic growth in the city.

Our parents belong to the unorganized sector. Nonliterate and unskilled, they are paid badly. And ill health takes its toll. Most of them are unable to come to work every day. Which means less income, less food, more children working. We belong to this largely silent majority.

Katha came into our lives in 1990. And we took our first steps on the road that would change the direction of our lives for ever. In the last 18 months, our steady growth into a community of self-esteem and courage has continued. They have

been months of thinking on our feet, creativity and uncommon solutions.

We are three main clusters: Bhumiheen, Navjeevan and Jawahar Camps. The fact that we still live in "camps," even though our people have lived in and worked tirelessly for Delhi and its citizens from this piece of land for more than 25 years, tells long, frustrating stories.

We are 150,000 strong, of whom at least 50 percent are women. Yet they have less space than the men or the children – physically, culturally, metaphorically. Times are changing. We want that their lives must change too. And the lives of our elders who have endured so much.



The surveys were done by teams of students as part of classroom work. At the year end, our Class X and XII results? 92 percent! Katha shows that Learning by Doing does not interfere with the syllabus, just makes it more relevant.



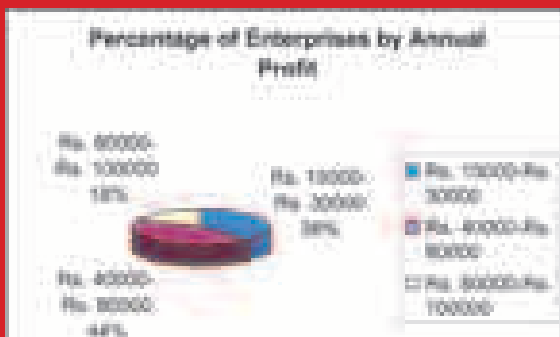
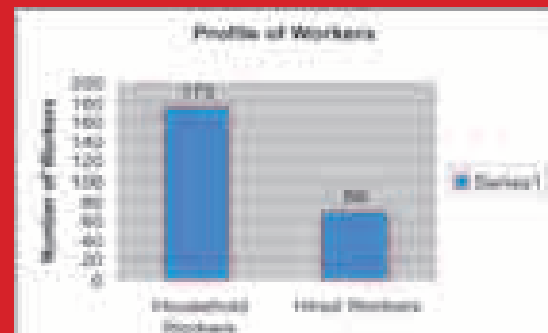
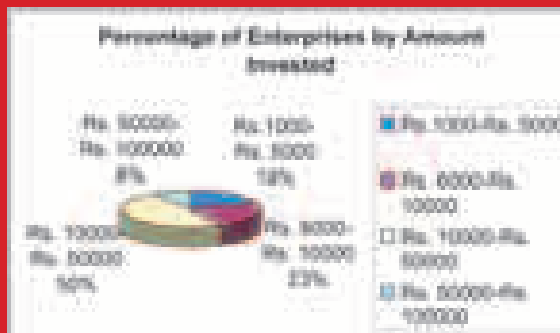
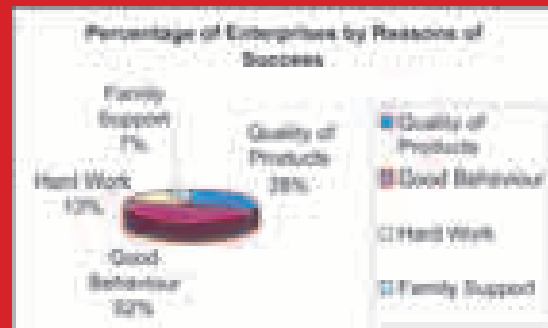
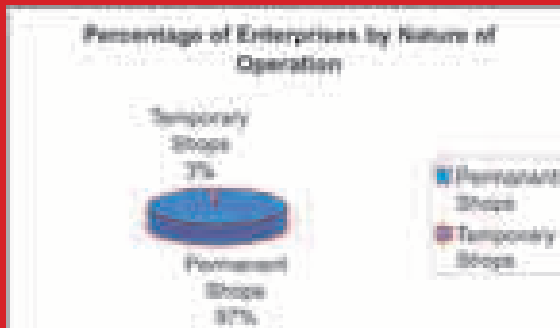
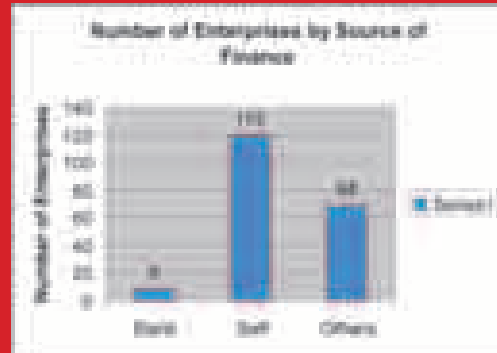
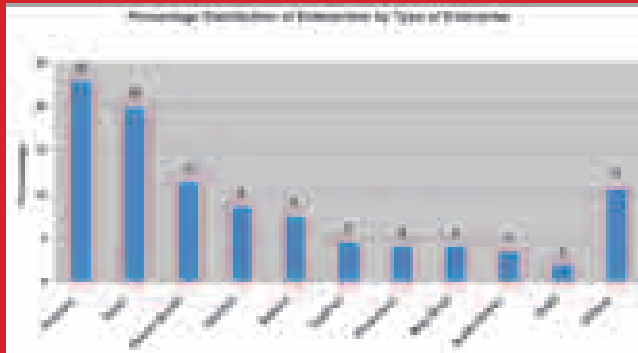


Not knowing good English never comes in our way. What we need are good ideas and prompt action – in whatever language they come!

We the students surveyed, discussed, plotted and planned, we drew connections and conclusions. We took out marches and jathas. We spoke to the media. Our primary school also joined in the fun. They narrated stories, they heard stories and brought them back to school. The learning grew exponentially.

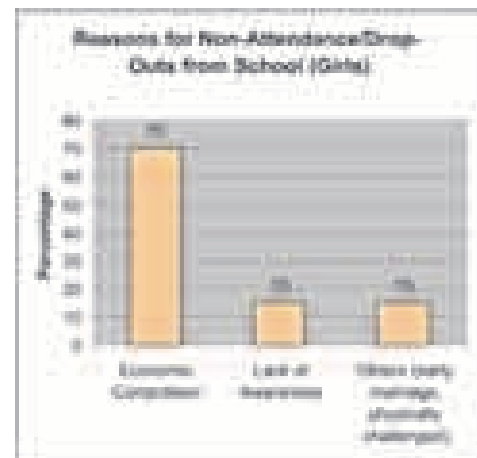
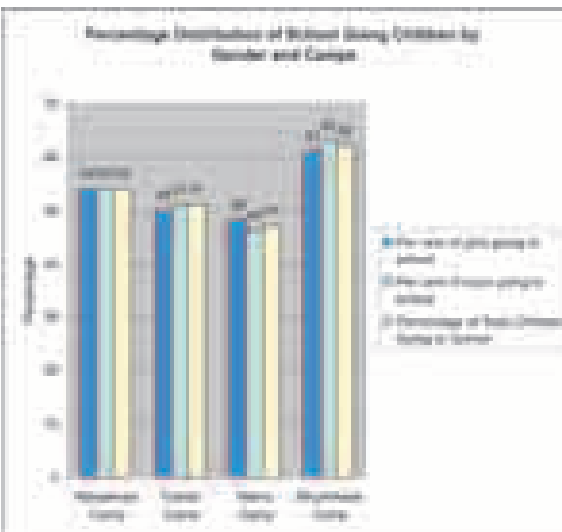
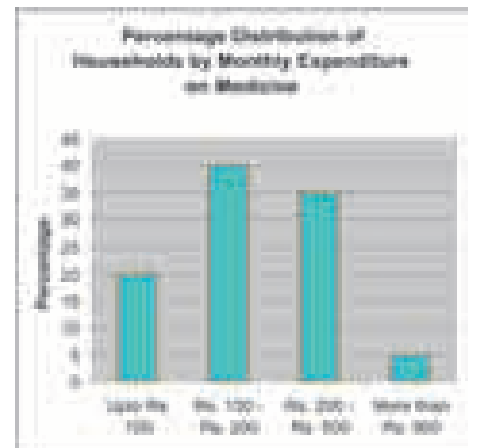
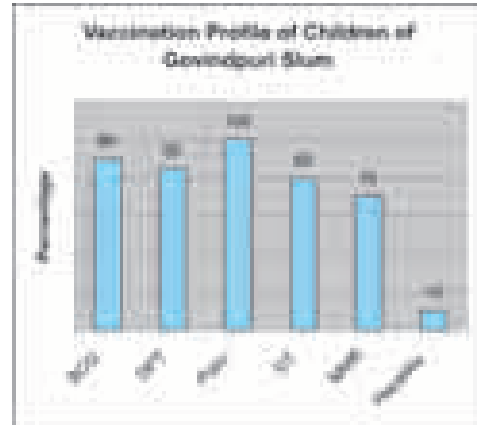
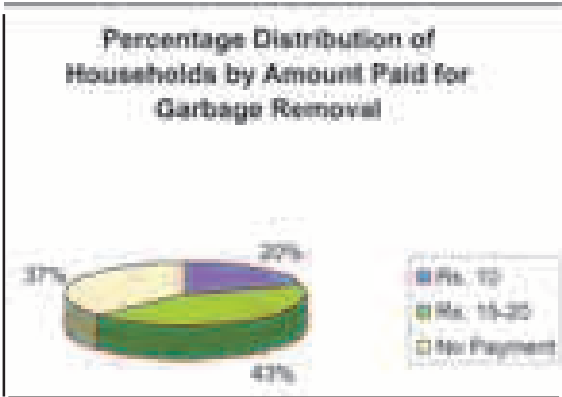


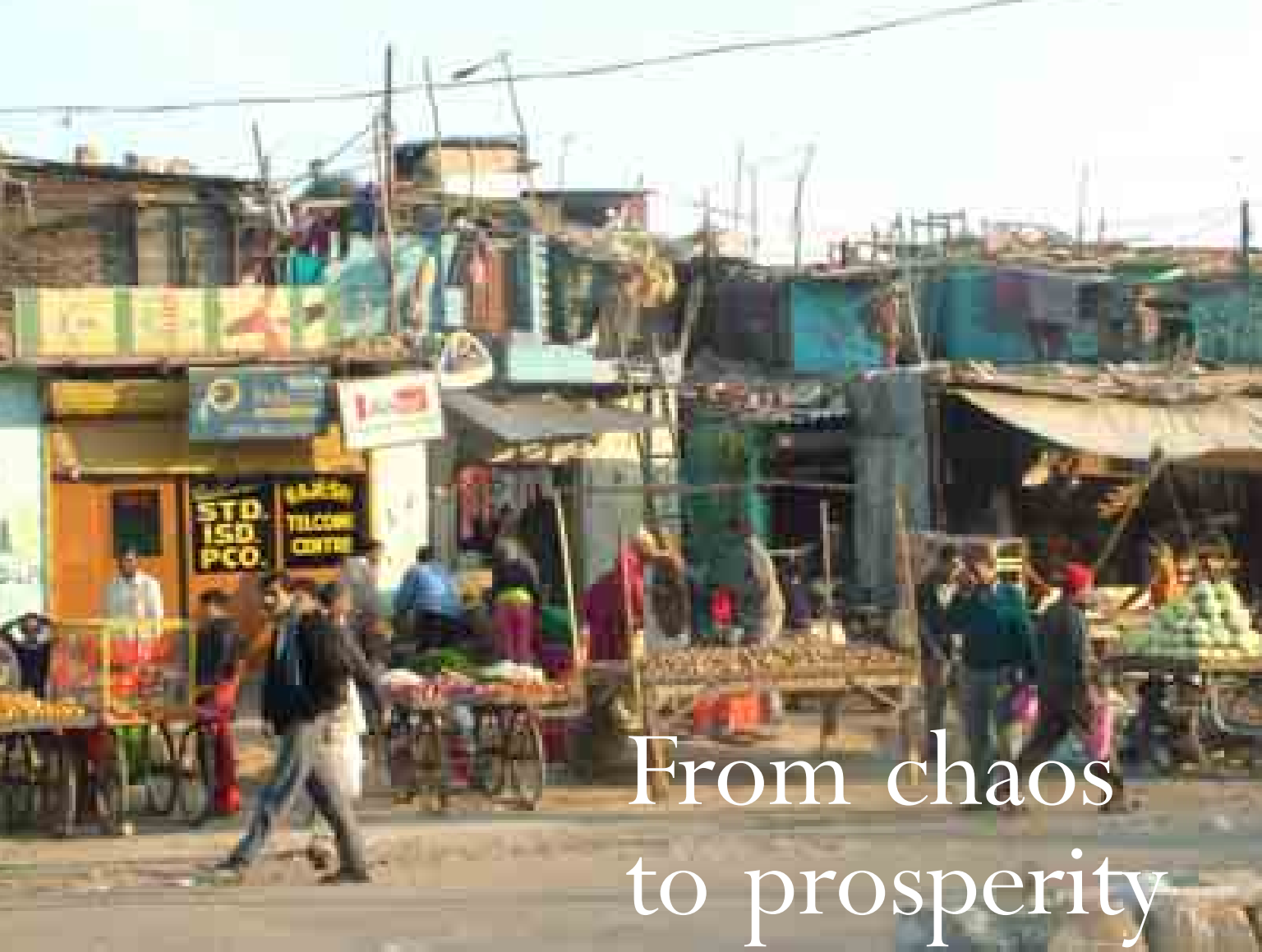
the other Delhi



Source: A primary survey done by the students of Katha Public School of Govindpuri slum cluster, Delhi. Copyright, Katha 2006.

student survey findings: our community's profile





From chaos to prosperity



Planning the Navabhujia Mall: Members of the Shopkeepers' Guild at the Lifelong Learning Centre

how we helped

empower local communities



A meeting of our mothers' association, Ma Mandal, in progress



The women's committees in consultation with the elected representative of the area

Katha provided our community with training in ethical entrepreneurship, and through numerous self-help groups, fostered economic independence for the women.

Through relevant and suitable training in wideranging job skills, Katha enhanced their access to better income opportunities, and also of youth unable to continue their education due to various constraints.

empowering
women
promoting gender
equity

Women brought together
from 33 Katha communities
to discuss issues with the
Chief Minister of Delhi,
Sheila Dixit



We the students were the primary activists in helping our community claim their right to information as provided by the Indian Constitution. We searched the Internet, we talked to people, made studies, helped empower, energize and build capacity of our community members – especially the women – to access knowledge resources and the global market, to move from poverty to self-sufficiency. And we have been doing this for many years now. Way back in 1995, our seniors tell us, they were going from house to house warning residents about the perils of contaminated drinking water.

We organized the people, which meant first naming ourselves. Combining the names of all three camps, we arrived at Navabhuja Vihar – Navabhuja gave us the strength of many arms, Vihar gave us respectability; we were no longer camps. We brought out a newsletter called *Navabhuja Times* that kept residents abreast of local news and the best practices in the community.

Katha formed the Shopkeepers' Guild, Navabhuja Market Association, the Ma Mandal, Balika Mandal, committees for health, water and sanitation and also an income-generation group. We trained women to interact with civic authorities and initiate civic infrastructure renewal plans. The women in Ma Mandal, our mothers' association, alone number more than 2,500.

We built awareness on social, family and health issues, the invisible vital contribution of women inside and outside the house, the need for education, hygiene, prevention and control of disease, child labour, drug abuse, alcohol abuse. We designed and distributed posters and pamphlets, we conducted workshops, meetings, rallies, door-to-door campaigns. We worked hard, and we had great fun!

the fire within

community revitalization | economic resurgence | education of children

community revitalization

21 Water Committees formed so far have ensured that a minimum number of taps have been installed in all three camps and that regular supply is maintained. Public pressure, demonstrations and regular correspondence are used to obligate the civic authorities to make necessary and timely provisions.

27 Sanitation Committees have taken over charge of the maintenance and construction of drains, garbage disposal and emergency work. The drains are cleaned regularly, with continuous monitoring done by Katha members through letters, meetings with community members, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Councillor and MCD officials.

7 Health Committees have identified factories in the surrounding area whose activities adversely affect the health of residents. Lobbying is on for their removal. The committees organize checkups, health camps and vaccination drives for the residents. Pulse polio and first-aid programmes, dengue rallies and awareness for other common communicable diseases were organized during this project.

The Sulabh Shauchalaya Committee's responsibility includes the maintenance of public latrines and coordination with MCD for regular water and electricity supply for them. In the past few months, with their constant effort and intervention, the contract for the maintenance of these shauchalayas has been given back to the community by MCD.

how we formed and energized

self-help groups

The collaboration with **EU** strengthened our ongoing programmes, while aiding us in the launch of new schemes. One such programme, **(SHE)²** stands for **double woman power, Safe water and Sanitation, Health and Housing, Education and Economic Empowerment**.

Katha trained 1,055 women in embroidery, cooking, baking and various other income generating skills. The total number of self-help groups (SHGs) increased to 44. Of these, 15 opened their own bank accounts and 12 were declared self-sustaining. We organized 17 all-group meetings of SHGs. Through regular entrepreneurial workshops, these women improved their job skills in diverse areas. During this period, the economic revitalization and livelihood project helped 500 women become financially independent.

Katha organized a series of consultative workshops focusing on different socioeconomic problems to generate awareness and a better understanding of issues of income generation for women. It helped them find ways to self-sufficiency and economic empowerment.



expanding horizons



Chefs of the Taj Group of Hotels were invited to impart training to our community bakers



Our women were trained in tailoring, embroidery, cooking, baking. They were also taught basic computer skills and given diverse entrepreneurial training, which opened up new horizons of opportunities for them.





income
generation
activities
for our
women

Tracking Tools for Bringing our Children on



With the World!

[PAR stands for Performance . Attendance . Retention]

Student academic performance and retention are important. However in Katha, tracking does not judge children in competitive ways, nor push them into undesirable competition. The tests are continuous and sensitive to the needs of children. So the constant questions we encourage our teachers to ask are: Are students learning as best as they can? Is the learning relevant and hence, rememberable? How can we improve pedagogy and classroom practices so the child benefits? And this has got students into colleges. Into IBM jobs!

External evaluation results for 2006

Education Initiatives, which conducted the SLIM 2006 study in five metro cities among 142 top schools, did an external evaluation on 100 randomly picked students – 51 in Class 4 and 50 in Class 6. They say:

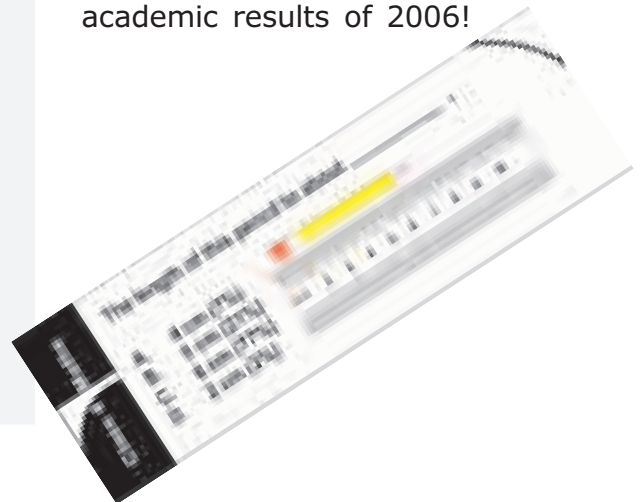
“The overall performance in Maths is very good, with students in Class 4 scoring 96.9% and Class 6 students scoring 94.9%. In language, Class 4 students scored 87% and Class 6 students scored 82%. The quality of writing far exceeds what we find in municipal schools and seems comparable to what we find in private schools. An examination of answer scripts showed that children have performed very well on dictation items. 84% to 100% of students got these items correct and were able to write the words and sentences without a single spelling mistake in the language paper in Class 4.

In Maths, students seem to be able to handle questions that municipal school children usually find difficult. 90% students of Class 6 have correctly attempted the question: How long is the pencil shown in the picture (Use the ruler shown in the picture). Data received from other studies shows that although this looks easy, even in private schools, only 11% students were able to solve it correctly.”

Our students have been our greatest asset. As much as our teachers who have been with us for many years, carrying forward the proud tradition of a Katha education.

The in-depth analyses and studies done by Katha students and teachers rival those of the best management schools in the world.

Katha’s strategy document is entirely based on the field studies of the Govindpuri cluster and other underserved communities of Delhi done by our own students. Perhaps it is this that produced the amazing academic results of 2006!



how we raised rights awareness in

1,300 children

Through workshops, campaigns and in the classroom, we raised awareness of rights and responsibilities in children, helping them become equal partners in society and decision-making. We raised Katha's own benchmarking standards in the education of children from underserved communities and nonliterate families.



katha millennium schools

Katha has driven its community participation and activism on a single powerful idea: Children can help their communities achieve full potential if guided by vision and powered by innovation and hands-on thinking. The principle of an open, democratic society based on respect for human rights and freedom has informed all our work in community and child education since 1990. Doing all of it at once, since the past decade and more, Katha has been working on multiple fronts simultaneously, achieving goals through present-to-the-moment solutions integrated into a holistic education plan that works for everyone. The effort has been to work with the very impoverished – for and through their children.

We have **6,000 determined children**. We have **2,500 women of grit and courage**. They have been busy building a huge movement to bring equity, better health, education, better opportunities and economic resurgence to their people.

The project funded by the EU, “Uncommon Solutions for a Common Good” has helped Katha expand its role as a catalyst in the community. By organizing, strategizing, fighting the odds and gaining basic living amenities, today our communities are beginning to stand independent and proud.

If you are moved and inspired by the success of our people’s determined steps to better their tomorrows, we hope that you will join the evergrowing Katha family today and become one of our many partners to aid our people attain their rightful potential. Contact us at **kps@katha.org** for more information.

what you can do

GOAL 1 || QUALITY EDUCATION.

Too many of our children are still out of school. The millennium plan is to bring the children of all our communities into formal education by 2010.

Cost: USD 10/month/child. 6,000 children.

GOAL 2 || I LOVE READING

CAMPAIGN for the children in our community.

Cost: USD 2/month/child. 3,000 children.

GOAL 3 || EARLY CHILDHOOD

LEARNING for children below the age of 3. We want to develop a series of books specially designed for them.

Cost: USD 5/month/child. 3,000 children.

GOAL 4 || A STRONG PUBLISHING

PROGRAMME which gives children from nonliterate families the books they deserve, that excite them to read – colourful, in quality paper, attractive.

Cost: USD 20/month/child. 6,000 children.

GOAL 5 || PROMOTE GENDER

EQUITY by working with women, raising their awareness and self-confidence, organizing meetings, discussions, workshops and more.

Cost: USD 2/month/woman. 3,000 women.

GOAL 6 || ECONOMIC RESURGENCE

for the community. Entrepreneurship training for women and older students through the Katha School of Entrepreneurship.

Cost: USD 7/month/trainee. 3,000 trainees.

GOAL 7 || BETTER LIVING

STANDARDS for all. Decent civic amenities for the community.

Cost: USD 2,000/family. 25,000 families.

GOAL 8 || STRONGER GLOBAL

PARTNERSHIPS for community development.

Cost: USD 25,000 per year.





thank you EU!

Over the years, we have made many more friends who have stood by us and our work. We take this opportunity to thank all of them.

Action Aid
Aditi Plan
Alliance Francaise
Asha for Education
Asian Ladies Society
Australian High Commission
Beijing Newsletter
British Council
British High Commission
British Telecom
Casplan
Charanjiv Charitable Trust
Chinese Embassy
Citibank
Child Relief & You
Cognizant Foundation
Delhi Development Authority Slum Wing
Department of Education, GOI
Dept of Women & Child Development, GOI
DUDA
European Union
First National Bank
Ford Foundation
GAIL India Pvt. Ltd.
German Embassy
GNK Plan
HPS Foundation
India Habitat Centre
India International Centre
Indian Council for Cultural Relations
ICCO
ILO
Indian Bank
India Cements Ltd
Indo German Social Service Society

Indo Swedish Writers Union
Intel
India Tourist Development Corporation
Karnataka Government
MacArthur Foundation
Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
National Commission for Women
Oxfam
Plan International
PVR
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation
Reach India
Red Barnet
Rockefeller Foundation
Roopmanjari
Royal Netherlands Embassy
Seva Riyad
SIMS Pvt Ltd
SLK
SOAS
Soroptimist International Vancouver
SOS
Sri Dorabji Tata Trust
Swedish Embassy
Target
TWB Foundation
UNEP
UNESCO
UNICEF
University of Chicago
University of Texas
USIS
Wings of Support Foundation
Wipro
World Vision

...and all the individuals, volunteers and friends of Katha, Thank You!



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about katha

Katha is a profit for all voluntary organization started by Geeta Dharmarajan in 1988, she has been its executive director since then.

The Katha School was started in 1990 with 5 children. Today Katha has 6,000 students in the Kathashalas – the main Katha School at Govindpuri in Delhi, the 10 Katha Community Schools, the 20 Pavement Schools serviced by the IT-School on Wheels, and Bow-Wow! – the Books on Wheels-Workshops on Wheels van that takes reading pleasure to 22 unserved slum clusters of Delhi.

In 2001, we found a new way of learning: **vidduniya**. Vidduniya, along with the unique **Katha story pedagogy**, story stations and pathways teach maths, science, language and arts using the context of the children's immediate environment and personal experiences in the classroom. They impart knowledge in traditional and nontraditional subjects.

Today, our performance, attendance and retention rates each stand at above 92%. People say for a "slum school," this is incredible. But then we have never seen ourselves as a "slum school." We think we are the best in the world. Thanks to all our friends, families, donor partners, well-wishers, everyone.

katha governing council

PRESIDENT:

Abid Hussain, former Indian ambassador to the US, career diplomat, advisor to UNESCO

VICE PRESIDENTS:

N S Jagannathan, former editor in chief, *The Indian Express*

N N Tandon, former director, UNIDO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Geeta Dharmarajan, social entrepreneur, writer, educationist

COUNCIL MEMBERS

U R Anantha Murthy, writer, former president, Sahitya Akademi

Ashok Vajpeyi, former vice chancellor, International Hindi University

Gowher Rizvi, director, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard University

Kapila Vatsyayan, expert, culture and education

S Krishnamoorthy, retired financial expert, Government of India

Leela K Ponappa, former Indian ambassador to The Netherlands

Leila Seth, former chief justice of Himachal Pradesh

Mani Narayanaswamy, trustee, National Foundation for The Arts

Panna Bharat Ram, founder, Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts

Shabana Azmi, social activist, actor

Sharmila Tagore, actor

Srinath, business entrepreneur

Shashank, former foreign secretary, Government of India

Syed Shahid Mahdi, former vice chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia University

Veena Das, academic, sociologist, Krieger-Eisenhower professor of anthropology at Johns Hopkins University



*“katha ... an
extraordinary
nonprofit
the telegraph, uk*



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